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No. III.

CLOTH FROM NEW ZEALAND FLAX.

The SILVER CERES MEDAL and FIVE GUINEAS were this session presented to Mr. R. JONES, master of St. George's workhouse, at Little Chelsea, for specimens of twilled Drill and Sheetting, made from New Zealand Flax. The following communication was received from Mr. Jones, and the specimens have been placed in the Society's repository.

St. George's Workhouse, Little Chelsea,
SIR, Feb. 5, 1825.

I HAVE herewith sent you a specimen of seven-eighths twilled drill for trowsers, also of nine-eighths sheeting, made by order of Mr. Wilson, from New Zealand flax, obtained by that gentleman from the Colonial Office. As I presume it may show to what use that article may be turned in the manufactures of this country, and as it is now become a subject of public enquiry, I take the liberty of sending the accompanying samples, in order that you may submit the same to the consideration of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, should it be worth their notice.

I am, Sir,

A. Aikin, Esq.

Secretary, &c. &c.

&c. &c. &c.

R. JONES.

P.S. The pieces from which the specimens were taken were spun and woven by pauper children, under my inspection, in this establishment.

The candidate further stated before the committee, that the raw fibre was boiled in alkaline lye, and subjected to the usual bleaching operations for flax or hemp. The cloth was soft to the feel, of a good colour, and seemed likely to prove very durable, furnishing an additional motive to the landholders in the south of England, and especially in Ireland, to make a fair experiment on the culture of New Zealand flax, a plant which produces a greater quantity of fibre than any other vegetable.